

2010

# STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

## Public Service and Facilities

### SCOTTSDALE HUMAN SERVICE RESOURCES

Support efforts to sustain the City's ability to provide services, resources and opportunities to help improve the lives of the people in the community. Examples of legislation that may fall under this statement include:

- Legislation that assists victims of domestic violence and support continued funding of domestic violence shelters and supportive services.
- Legislation that will maintain the budget for the coordinated hunger program designated for food bank operations.
- Legislation for continued funding for homeless shelters, eviction prevention and supportive services for homeless individuals and families.

### COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICTS

Support legislation that would allow a city or town to opt out from participating in a County Library District. State law establishes the creation of Library Districts which are funded by a secondary property tax and have generally been formed at the county level.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION; WEBSITES

Support legislation that would allow local governments to fulfill state requirements for the publishing of public and legal notices in a newspaper by posting the notices on the local government's official website.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION; CITY AUDITORS

Support legislation that would allow city auditors to have legal access to the minutes of executive session meetings.



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

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LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

LEGISLATIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In addition to the direction given to staff on specific issues, these principles will guide the Government Relations Office on all other legislative matters that arise throughout the session.

**Preserve Local Funding**  
Protect existing funding and authorities that bring revenues to the City of Scottsdale. Such areas might include the protection of state-shared revenues, the ability to collect compensation for the use of a public right-of-way, or opposition to the imposition of new fees by other levels of governments that would increase costs to the City.

**Oppose Preemption of Local Authority**  
Support the retention of local decision-making authority. Cities and towns are voluntarily created by the residents of a community to provide local self-government and to allow Arizona’s cities and towns to make decisions at a local level that best meet the needs of the community. Each community has unique needs and characteristics that are best met by policies set by its own local governing body. Statewide preemptive efforts to remove the ability to set policy at the local level should be opposed.

SCOTTSDALE PRIORITIES

Although there are many legislative issues of interest to the City of Scottsdale, the Government Relations Office recommends that the City’s legislative agenda be prioritized to allow the City to have a stronger, more consistent message on the issues of greatest importance. The proposed top priority issue for the Council’s consideration is the protection of state-shared revenues.

**Support the maintenance of state-shared revenues from sales, income, and other tax revenues and oppose any reduction in state-shared revenues, either directly or indirectly.**  
Arizona voters chose, through a series of initiatives, to return a portion of tax revenues back to local communities through revenue sharing. This was provided to municipalities in exchange for losses in local taxing authority such as income and luxury taxes. City Council Adopted FY09/10 General Fund revenues include \$56.3M in state-shared revenues (\$18.0M Sales Tax, \$30.3M Income Tax and \$8.0M Auto Lieu Tax) or 22.9% of General Fund Revenues and Cash-Transfers-In. Those state-shared revenues fund 24.7% of our General Fund Operating Budget of approximately \$227.5M.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

**Economic Vitality**  
ECONOMIC VITALITY TOOLS  
Support working with the State, other governments, and private enterprises to identify future economic growth opportunities. Oppose legislation that would diminish the ability of local governments to provide supportive services to local businesses or revitalize areas within city boundaries. Oppose efforts that would create additional regulatory or administrative hurdles to the local economic engine.

TOURISM  
Support efforts to increase the visibility of Arizona and Arizona cities and towns as being tourism destinations.

**Neighborhoods**  
FIRE SPRINKLERS  
Oppose legislation that would mandate any prohibition of fire sprinkler ordinances or prohibit the ability of local governments to enact ordinances relating to the use of fire sprinklers in commercial and residential properties.

FIREWORKS  
Oppose legislation that would permit the uniform sale of fireworks in Arizona.

LIQUOR LICENSE INPUT  
Support legislation to modify state liquor laws to enhance the ability of cities to address community-related concerns associated with problem liquor establishments.

WATER SERVICE  
Protect and enhance the City’s ability to provide safe, sustainable, and reliable water and wastewater services to the citizens of Scottsdale at a reasonable cost. Examples of legislation that may fall under this statement include:

- Legislation to ensure the City’s role in the management and continued use of reclaimed water and surface water.
- Legislation to increase supplies of water through efficiency improvements or natural resource management.
- Legislation to maintain municipal access to supplies of Central Arizona Project delivered water.

**Open Space and Recreation**  
STATE LAND REFORM  
Seek legislation that makes positive changes to State Land policies allowing cities and towns the ability to preserve land for open space. The League of Arizona Cities and Towns has approved a Resolution to support legislation that would allow local governments to purchase State Trust land for conservation at fair market value without a competitive public auction.

SAFETY OF RECREATION STAFF  
Support adequate screening and background checks of volunteers and staff.

RECREATIONAL IMMUNITY  
Support legislation that would increase immunity from liability for local governments regarding recreational use of public lands.

**Presevation and Environmental Planning**  
Energy – Support alternative energy incentives and technological advances designed to increase energy efficiency and promote long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

